

PATENT  
USSN 09/921,492  
674509-2032

AMENDMENT

Kindly amend the application, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, to read as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) A process for the preparation of a modified masa foodstuff, the process comprising the steps of:

- (i) preparing a masa by nixtamalisation of corn; and
- (ii) contacting a reducing agent or an enzyme with

(a) the masa, and optionally

(b) the corn prior to nixtamalisation;

such that the conformation of a protein native to the corn is changed or such that a peptide or disulphite bond of a protein native to the corn is cleaved,

wherein the enzyme is a protease, and wherein the reducing agent is capable of cleaving a disulphite bond of a protein native to the corn.